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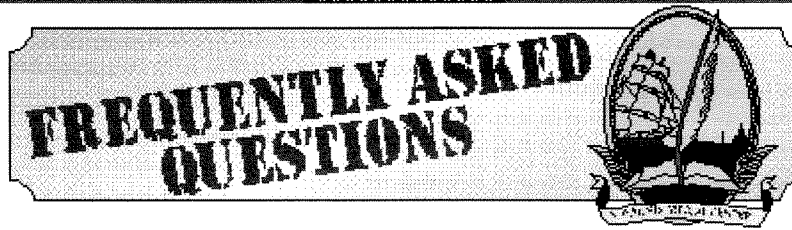
Presidents Who Served in the U.S. Navy



- [John F. Kennedy](#) (1961-63)
- [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) (1963-69)
- [Richard M. Nixon](#) (1969-74)
- [Gerald R. Ford](#) (1974-77)
- [Jimmy Carter](#) (1977-81)
- [George Bush](#) (1989-93)

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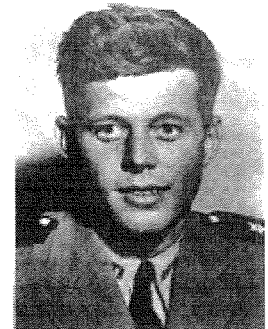
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Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, USN

Related Information:

- [Transcript of Naval Service](#)
- [Citation for Navy and Marine Corps Medal](#)
- [Report on Loss of *PT-109*, copy of original document](#)
- [Information on *PT-109* and Patrol Torpedo Boats](#)
- [History of *PT-109*](#)
- [Photographs of *PT-109*](#)
- [Bibliography](#)

"Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy,'" wrote President John F. Kennedy in August 1963. A former naval officer, Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts on 29 May 1917 to Rose and Joseph P. Kennedy. After attending public schools in Brookline, Kennedy went on to The Choate School in Wallingford, Connecticut, and attended the London School of Economics from 1935 to 1936. Kennedy graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1940 and began graduate school at Stanford University.



Despite having a bad back, Kennedy was able to join the U.S. Navy through the help of Captain Alan Kirk, the Director, Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) who had been the Naval Attache in London when Joseph Kennedy was the Ambassador. In October 1941, Kennedy was appointed an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve and joined the staff of the Office of Naval Intelligence. The office, for which Kennedy worked, prepared intelligence bulletins and briefing information for the Secretary of the Navy and other top officials. On 15 January 1942, he was assigned to an ONI field office the Sixth Naval District in Charleston, South Carolina. After spending most of April and May at Naval Hospitals at Charleston and at Chelsea, Massachusetts, Kennedy attended Naval Reserve Officers Training School at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, from 27 July through 27 September. After completing this training, Kennedy entered the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center, Melville, Rhode Island. On 10 October, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade. Upon completing his training 2 December, he was ordered to the training squadron, Motor Torpedo Squadron FOUR, for duty as the Commanding Officer of a motor torpedo boat, *PT 101*, a 78- foot Higgins boat. In January 1943, *PT 101* with four other boats was ordered to Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron FOURTEEN, which was assigned to Panama.

Seeking combat duty, Kennedy transferred on 23 February as a replacement officer to Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron TWO, which was based at Tulagi Island in the Solomons. Traveling to the Pacific on USS *Rochambeau*, Kennedy arrived at Tulagi on 14 April and took command of *PT 109* on 23 April 1943. On 30 May, several PT boats, including *PT 109* were ordered to the Russell Islands, in preparation for the invasion of New Georgia. After the invasion of Rendova, *PT 109* moved to Lumbari. From that base PT boats conducted nightly operations to interdict the heavy Japanese barge traffic resupplying the Japanese garrisons in New Georgia and to patrol the Ferguson and Blackett Straits near the islands of Kolombangara, Gizo, and Vella-Lavella in order to sight and to give warning when the Japanese Tokyo Express warships came into the straits to assault U.S. forces in the New Georgia-Rendova area.

PT 109 commanded by Kennedy with executive officer, Ensign Leonard Jay Thom, and ten enlisted men was one of the fifteen boats sent out on patrol on the night of 1-2 August 1943 to intercept Japanese warships in the straits. A friend of Kennedy, Ensign George H. R. Ross, whose ship was damaged, joined Kennedy's crew that night. The PT boat was creeping along to keep the wake and noise to a minimum in order to avoid detection. Around 0200 with Kennedy at the helm, the Japanese destroyer *Amagiri* traveling at 40 knots cut *PT 109* in two in ten seconds. Although the Japanese destroyer had not realized that their ship had struck an enemy vessel, the damage to *PT 109* was severe. At the impact, Kennedy was thrown into the cockpit where he landed on his bad back. As *Amagiri* steamed away, its wake doused the flames on the floating section of *PT 109* to which five Americans clung: Kennedy, Thom, and three enlisted men, S1/c Raymond Albert, RM2/c John E. Maguire and QM3/c Edman Edgar Mauer. Kennedy yelled out for others in the water and heard the replies of Ross and five members of the crew, two of which were injured. GM3/c Charles A. Harris had a hurt leg and MoMM1/c Patrick Henry McMahon, the engineer was badly burned. Kennedy swam to these men as Ross and Thom helped the others, MoMM2/c William Johnston, TM2/c Ray L. Starkey, and MoMM1/c Gerald E. Zinser to the remnant of *PT 109*. Although they were only one hundred yards from the floating piece, in the dark it took Kennedy three hours to tow McMahon and help Harris back to the PT hulk. Unfortunately, TM2/c Andrew Jackson Kirksey and MoMM2/c Harold W. Marney were killed in the collision with *Amagiri*.

Because the remnant was listing badly and starting to swamp, Kennedy decided to swim for a small island barely visible (actually three miles) to the southeast. Five hours later, all eleven survivors had made it to the island after having spent a total of fifteen hours in the water. Kennedy had given McMahon a life-jacket and had towed him all three miles with the strap of the device in his teeth. After finding no food or water on the island, Kennedy concluded that he should swim the route the PT boats took through Ferguson Passage in hopes of sighting another ship. After Kennedy had no luck, Ross also made an attempt, but saw no one and returned to the island. Ross and Kennedy had spotted another slightly larger island with coconuts to eat and all the men swam there with Kennedy again towing McMahon. Now at their fourth day, Kennedy and Ross made it to Nauru Island and found several natives. Kennedy cut a message on a coconut that read "11 alive native knows posit & reef Nauru Island Kennedy." He purportedly handed the coconut to one of the natives and said, "Rendova, Rendova!," indicating that the coconut should be taken to the PT base on Rendova.

Kennedy and Ross again attempted to look for boats that night with no luck. The next morning the natives returned with food and supplies, as well as a letter from the coastwatcher commander of the New Zealand camp, Lieutenant Arthur Reginald Evans. The message indicated that the natives should return with the American commander, and Kennedy complied immediately. He was greeted warmly and then taken to meet *PT 157* which returned to the island and finally rescued the survivors on 8 August.

Kennedy was later awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroics in the rescue of the crew of *PT 109*, as well as the Purple Heart Medal for injuries sustained in the accident on the night of 1

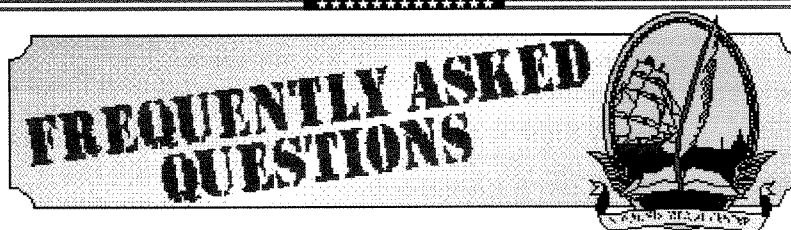
August 1943. An official account of the entire incident was written by intelligence officers in August 1943 and subsequently declassified in 1959. As President, Kennedy met once again with his rescuers and was toasted by members of the Japanese destroyer crew.

In September, Kennedy went to Tulagi and accepted the command of *PT 59* which was scheduled to be converted to a gunboat. In October 1943, Kennedy was promoted to Lieutenant and continued to command the motor torpedo boat when the squadron moved to Vella Lavella until a doctor directed him to leave *PT 59* on 18 November. Kennedy left the Solomons on 21 December and returned to the U.S. in early January 1944.

On 15 February, Kennedy reported to the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center, Melville, Rhode Island. Due to the reinjury of his back during the sinking of *PT 109*, Kennedy entered a hospital for treatment. In March, Kennedy went to the Submarine Chaser Training Center, Miami, Florida. In May while still assigned to the Center, Kennedy entered the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Massachusetts, for further treatment of his back injury. At the Hospital in June, he received his Navy and Marine Corps Medals. Under treatment as an outpatient, Kennedy was ordered detached from the Miami Center on 30 October 1944. Subsequently, Kennedy was released from all active duty and finally retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve on physical disability in March 1945.

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Commander Lyndon B. Johnson, USNR

Related resources:

[Citation for Army Silver Star Medal](#)

Before his brief career as a naval officer, Lyndon B. Johnson worked both as a school teacher and a politician. Born to Samuel Ealy and Rebekah Baines Johnson on 27 August 1908, Johnson attended public schools in Blanco County, Texas, until he graduated from high school in 1924. Continuing his education at Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos, he earned a Bachelor's of Science in 1930. After graduation, Johnson taught at a public school in Texas.



Two years later Johnson decided to change career fields and accepted a position as secretary to Representative Richard M. Kleberg in his Washington, D.C. office. In 1935 Johnson spent one year at Georgetown Law School and then became the State Director of the National Youth Administration of Texas. In 1937, Johnson resigned this position to become a candidate for the unexpired term of Congressman James P. Buchanan from the Tenth District of Texas. During a special election, he was elected on 10 April to the 75th Congress. In 1938, Johnson was re-elected to a full term in the 76th Congress.

Appointed Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve on 21 June 1940, Johnson reported for active duty on 9 December 1941, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He was ordered to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. After completing his training in Washington, Johnson proceeded to Headquarters, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, CA for inspection duty in the Pacific. While stationed in New Zealand and Australia, he worked as an observer of bomber missions in the South Pacific, for which he was later awarded the Army Silver Star Medal.

After President Roosevelt ordered all members of Congress in the Armed Forces to return to their legislative duties, Johnson was released from active duty under honorable conditions on 16 June 1942. In 1949 he was promoted to Commander in the Naval Reserves to date from 1 June 1948. During his time in service, Johnson was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. After he became President following the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Johnson's resignation from the United States Naval Reserve was accepted by the Secretary of the Navy effective 18 January 1964.

**Former Commander Lyndon Baines Johnson, U.S. Naval Reserve
Transcript of Naval Service**

27 AUG 1908	Born in Stonewall, Texas
21 JUN 1940	Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve
9 DEC 1941	Reported for active duty
16 JUL 1942	Released from active duty under honorable conditions
19 OCT 1949	Commander, to rank from 1 June 1948
18 JAN 1964	Resignation from Naval Reserve accepted by Secretary of the Navy

SHIPS AND STATIONS

Office of the Under Secretary of the Navy, Dec. 1941-Jul. 1942
Department of the Navy, Washington 25, DC

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Commander Richard M. Nixon, USNR

Related resources:

[Letter of Commendation from COMSOPAC](#)

Richard Nixon joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 29. Richard Milhous Nixon was born on 9 January 1913 to Francis Anthony and Hanna Milhous Nixon in Yorba Linda, California. After attending public schools in California, Nixon earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Whittier College in 1934. Continuing his education at Duke University, where he acquired a Bachelor of Laws in 1937, Nixon returned to Whittier, California to practice law. In January 1942, Nixon became an attorney for the Office of Emergency Management in Washington, D.C. where he worked until he accepted an appointment as lieutenant junior grade in the United States Naval Reserve on 15 June 1942.



Following his appointment, Nixon began aviation indoctrination training at the Naval Training School, Naval Air Station in Quonset Point, Rhode Island. After completing the course in October 1942, he went to the Naval Reserve Aviation Base in Ottumwa, Iowa, where he served as Aide to the Executive Officer until May 1943. Looking for more excitement, Nixon volunteered for sea duty and reported to Commander Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet where he was assigned as Officer in Charge of the South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command at Guadalcanal in the Solomons and later at Green Island. His unit prepared manifests and flight plans for C-47 operations and supervised the loading and unloading of the cargo aircraft. For this service he received a Letter of Commendation from the Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force for "meritorious and efficient performance of duty as Officer in Charge of the South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command..." On 1 October 1943, Nixon was promoted to lieutenant.

From August through December of 1944, Nixon was assigned to Fleet Air Wing EIGHT. From December through March 1945, he served at the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. In March, his next assignment was as the Bureau of Aeronautics Contracting Officer for Terminations in the Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics General Representative, Eastern District, headquartered in New York City. In that capacity he had temporary additional duty at various places, including Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Buffalo, New York City, and East Hartford, Connecticut. When he was released from active duty on 10 March 1946. He was promoted to Commander in the Naval Reserve on 1 June 1953.

While on active duty besides the Letter of Commendation, Nixon earned the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. He is entitled to two engagement stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal for supporting air action in the Treasury-Bougainville operations from 27 October to 15 December 1943 and for consolidation of the northern Solomons from 15 December 1943 to 22 July 1944. Nixon transferred to the Retired Reserve of the Naval Reserve on 1 June 1966.

Former Commander Richard Milhous Nixon, U.S. Naval Reserve Transcript of Naval Service

9 JAN 1913 Born in Yorba Linda, California
15 JUN 1942 Appointed Lieutenant (junior grade) in U.S. Naval Reserve
1 OCT 1943 Lieutenant
3 OCT 1945 Lieutenant Commander
10 MAR 1946 Relieved of active duty
1 JUN 1953 Commander in Naval Reserve
1 JUN 1966 Retired from Naval Reserve

SHIPS AND STATIONS

Naval Training School, NAS, Quonset Point, RI	Aug. 1942-Oct. 1942
Naval Reserve Aviation Base, Ottumwa, Iowa	Oct. 1942-May 1943
Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet	May 1943-Aug. 1944
Fleet Air Wing EIGHT	Aug. 1944-Dec. 1944
Bureau of Aeronautics (BuAir) Washington DC	Dec. 1944-Mar. 1945
Office of the BuAir, Representative, Eastern District, Philadelphia, PA	Mar. 1945-10 Mar. 1946

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Lieutenant Commander Gerald Ford, USNR

Related Sources: [Transcript of Naval Service](#)

When he entered the White House in 1974, Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr. became the fourth consecutive President to have served in the U.S. Navy. He was born Leslie King, Jr in Omaha, Nebraska on 14 July 1913. After his parents divorced, his mother married a prominent business man, Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who adopted him and gave him his name. Gerald Ford, Jr. grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he attended public schools and won both all-city and all-state honors for football before graduating from South High School. Ford studied at the University of Michigan where he also played center on the football team. He was on the University of Michigan's 1932 National Championship football team and was named most valuable Michigan player in 1933. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in economics in 1935, Ford went to Yale University as an assistant football and boxing coach instead of accepting pro football offers. Accepted into Yale Law School in 1938, Ford received his law degree in 1941. Returning to Grand Rapids, Ford started a law practice with fellow classmate from the University of Michigan. However, the attack on Pearl Harbor changed his plans.

Instead of waiting for the draft, Ford wanted to join the Navy. His background as a coach and trainer made him a good candidate for instructor in the Navy's V-5 (aviation cadet) program. Ford received a commission as ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve on 13 April 1942. On 20 April, he reported for active duty to the V-5 instructor school at Annapolis, Maryland. After one month of training, he went to Navy Preflight School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he was one of 83 instructors and taught elementary seamanship, ordnance, gunnery, first aid, and military drill. In addition, he coached in all nine sports that were offered, but mostly in swimming, boxing and football. During the one year he was at the Preflight School, he was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade on 2 June 1942, and to Lieutenant on March 1943.

Applying for sea duty, Ford was sent in May 1943 to the pre-commissioning detachment for a new light aircraft carrier, USS *Monterey* (CVL-26) at New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, New Jersey. From the ship's commissioning on 17 June 1943 until the end of December 1944, Ford served as the assistant navigator, Athletic Officer, and antiaircraft battery officer on board *Monterey*. While he was on board, *Monterey* participated in many actions in the Pacific with the Third and Fifth Fleets during the fall of 1943 and in 1944. In 1943, the carrier helped secure Makin Island in the Gilberts, and participated in carrier strikes against Kavieng, New Ireland in 1943. During the spring of 1944, *Monterey* supported landings at Kwajalein and Eniwetok and participated in carrier strikes in the Marianas, Western Carolines, and northern New Guinea, as well as in the Battle of Philippine Sea. After overhaul, from September to November 1944, aircraft from *Monterey* launched strikes against Wake Island, participated

in strikes in the Philippines and Ryukus, and supported the landings at Leyte and Mindoro.

Although the ship was not damaged by the Japanese forces, *Monterey* was one of several ships damaged by the typhoon, which hit Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet on 18-19 December 1944. The Third Fleet lost three destroyers and over 800 men during the typhoon. *Monterey* was damaged by a fire which was started by several of the ship's aircraft tearing loose from their cables and colliding during the storm. During the storm, Ford narrowly missed being a casualty himself. After Ford left his battle station on the bridge of the ship in the early morning of 18 December, the ship rolled twenty-five degrees which caused Ford to lose his footing and slide toward the edge of the deck. The two inch steel ridge around the edge of the carrier slowed him enough so he could roll and twisted into the catwalk below the deck. As he later stated, "I was lucky; I could have easily gone overboard."

After the fire, *Monterey* was declared unfit for service and the crippled carrier reached Ulithi on 21 December before preceding across the Pacific to Bremerton, Washington where it underwent repairs. On Christmas Eve 1944 at Ulithi, Ford was detached from the ship and sent to the Athletic Department of the Navy Pre-Flight School, St. Mary's College, California where he was assigned to the Athletic Department until April 1945. One of his duties was to coach football. From end of April 1945 to January 1946, he was on the staff of the Naval Reserve Training Command, Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois as the Staff Physical and Military Training Officer. On 3 October 1945, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. In January 1946, he was sent to the Separation Center, Great Lakes, Illinois to be processed out. He was released from active duty under honorable conditions on 23 February 1946. On 28 June 1963, the Secretary of the Navy accepted Ford's resignation from the Naval Reserve.

For his naval service, Gerald Ford earned the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with nine engagement stars for operations in the Gilbert Islands, Bismark Archipelego, Marshal Islands, Asiatic and Pacific carrier raids, Hollandia, Marianas, Western Carolines, Western New Guinea, and the Leyte Operation. He also received the Philippine Liberation with two bronze stars for Leyte and Mindoro, as well as the American Campaign and World War II Victory Medals.

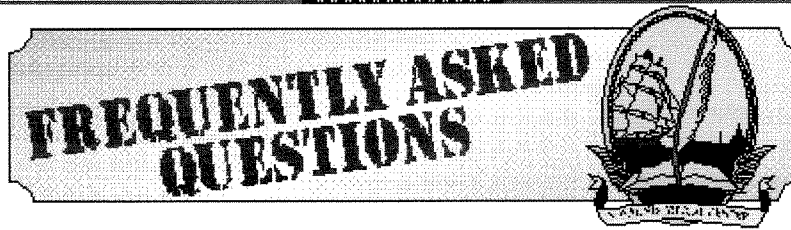
For Further Information:

Ford, Gerald. *A Time to Heal: the Autobiography of Gerald R. Ford*. New York: Harper & Row, 1979.

Norris, John G. "Former Naval Person Makes Good; Interview with Vice President Ford." *Seapower*. March 1972, pp. 6-12.

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Lieutenant James Earle Carter, Jr., USN

James Earle (Jimmy) Carter, Jr., who in 1976 became the fifth consecutive President with prior Navy service, was born in Plains, Georgia on 1 October 1924, to Lillian Gordy and James Earle Carter. Carter grew up in a rural atmosphere and attended public schools. Graduating from Plains High School in 1941, he attended Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Georgia. After a year there, Carter transferred to Georgia Institute of Technology to study mathematics for a year in order to qualify for the U.S. Naval Academy. In 1943, Carter received an appointment to the academy and became a member of the Class of 1947. After completing the accelerated wartime program, he graduated on 5 June 1946 with distinction and obtained his commission as ensign.



After he graduated, Carter was stationed at Norfolk and assigned to USS *Wyoming* (E-AG 17), an older battleship that had been converted into a floating laboratory for testing new electronics and gunnery equipment. On *Wyoming*, Carter served as radar officer and CIC officer. Detached when *Wyoming* was decommissioned on 23 July 1947, he was assigned that day to another similarly used battleship, USS *Mississippi* (E-AG 128) as Training and Education Officer. After completing two years of surface ship duty, Carter chose to apply for submarine duty. Accepted, he began the six-month course at the U.S. Navy Submarine School, Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut from 14 June to 17 December 1948.

Upon completion of the course, Carter was assigned to USS *Pomfret* (SS 391) based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where he reported on board on 29 December. *Pomfret* left on a simulated war patrol to the western Pacific and the Chinese coast on 4 January 1949. On board, Carter qualified in a submarine on 4 February, and served as Communications Officer, Sonar Officer, Electronics Officer, Gunnery Officer and Supply Officer. On 9 March, he served as the approach officer for a simulated torpedo firing at target ships, and scored a "hit." The submarine returned to Pearl Harbor on 25 March. Soon after Carter's promotion to Lieutenant Junior Grade on 5 June 1949, *Pomfret* was sent in July to San Diego where the submarine operated along the California coast.

Detached from *Pomfret* on 1 February 1951, Carter was assigned as Engineering Officer for the precommissioning detail for USS *K-1* (SSK 1). *K-1*, the first postwar submarine built, was under construction by Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corporation, Groton, Connecticut. After *K-1*'s commissioning on 10 November 1951, Carter served as Executive Officer, Engineering Officer, and Electronics Repair Officer. During this tour he also qualified for command of a submarine.

When Admiral Hyman G. Rickover (then a captain) started his program to create nuclear powered submarines, Carter wanted to join the program and was interviewed by Rickover. On 1 June 1952, Carter was promoted to Lieutenant. Selected by Rickover, Carter was detached on 16 October 1952 from *K-1* for duty with the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Division of Reactor Development in Schenectady, New York. From 3 November 1952 to 1 March 1953, he served on temporary duty with the Naval Reactors Branch, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, DC to assist "in the design and development of nuclear propulsion plants for naval vessels."

From 1 March to 8 October, Carter was preparing to become the engineering officer for the nuclear power plant to be placed in USS *Seawolf* (SSN 575), one of the first submarines to operate on atomic power. He assisted in setting up training for the enlisted men who would serve on *Seawolf*. During this time his father became very sick and died in July 1953. After his father's death in 1953, Carter resigned from the Navy to return to Georgia to manage the family interests. Carter was honorably discharged on 9 October 1953 at Headquarters, Third Naval District in New York City. On 7 December 1961, he transferred to the retired reserve with the rank of Lieutenant at his own request.

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Lieutenant Junior Grade George Bush, USNR

Related resources:

- LTJG George Bush's citation for the [Distinguished Flying Cross](#)
- Christman, Timothy J. "Vice President Bush Calls WW II Experience 'Sobering.'; *Naval Aviation News* 67 (Mar-Apr 1985): 12-15.
- George Bush in World War II: [A Short Bibliography](#).



Upon hearing of the Pearl Harbor attack, while a student at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., George Bush decided he wanted to join the Navy to become an aviator. Six months later, after graduation, he enlisted in the Navy on his 18th birthday and began preflight training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After completing the 10-month course, he was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve on 9 June 1943, several days before his 19th birthday; making him the youngest naval aviator then.

After finishing flight training, he was assigned to Torpedo Squadron (VT-51) as photographic officer in September 1943. As part of Air Group 51, his squadron was based on *USS San Jacinto* in the spring of 1944. *San Jacinto* was part of Task Force 58 that participated in operations against Marcus and Wake Islands in May, and then in the Marianas during June. On 19 June, the task force triumphed in one of the largest air battles of the war. During the return of his aircraft from the mission, Ensign Bush's aircraft made a forced water landing. The destroyer, *USS Clarence K. Bronson*, rescued the crew, but the plane was lost. On 25 July, Ensign Bush and another pilot received credit for sinking a small cargo ship.

After Bush was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade on 1 August, *San Jacinto* commenced operations against the Japanese in the Bonin Islands. On 2 September 1944, Bush piloted one of four aircraft from VT-51 that attacked the Japanese installations on Chi Chi Jima. For this mission his crew included Radioman Second Class John Delaney, and Lieutenant Junior Grade William White, USNR, who substituted for Bush's regular gunner. During their attack, four TBM Avengers from VT-51 encountered intense anti-aircraft fire. While starting the attack, Bush's aircraft was hit and his engine caught on fire. He completed his attack and released the bombs over his target scoring several damaging hits. With his engine on fire, Bush flew several miles from the island, where he and one other crew member on the TBM Avenger bailed out of the aircraft. However, the other man's chute did not open and he fell to his death. It was never determined which man bailed out with Bush. Both Delaney and

White were killed in action. While Bush anxiously waited four hours in his inflated raft, several fighters circled protectively overhead until he was rescued by the lifeguard submarine, *USS Finback*. For this action, Bush received the Distinguished Flying Cross. During the month he remained on *Finback*, Bush participated in the rescue of other pilots.

Subsequently, Bush returned to *San Jacinto* in November 1944 and participated in operations in the Philippines. When *San Jacinto* returned to Guam, the squadron, which had suffered 50 percent casualties of its pilots, was replaced and sent to the United States. Throughout 1944, he had flown 58 combat missions for which he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals, and the Presidential Unit Citation awarded *San Jacinto*.

Because of his valuable combat experience, Bush was reassigned to Norfolk and put in a training wing for new torpedo pilots. Later, he was assigned as a naval aviator in a new torpedo squadron, VT-153. With the surrender of Japan, he was honorably discharged in September 1945 and then entered Yale University.

Former Lieutenant George Herbert Walker Bush, U.S. Naval Reserve Transcript Of Naval Service

12 JUN 1924 Born in Milton, Massachusetts
 13 JUN 1942 Enlisted in U.S. Naval Reserve
 5 AUG 1942 Reported for Active Duty
 8 JUN 1943 Honorably Discharged
 9 JUN 1943 Ensign, U.S. Naval Reserve and continued on Active Duty
 1 AUG 1944 Lieutenant (junior grade)
 18 SEP 1945 Released from Active Duty under honorable conditions
 16 NOV 1948 Lieutenant
 24 OCT 1955 Resignation accepted under honorable conditions

SHIPS AND STATIONS

U.S. Naval Air Station, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (Instrn)	June 1943-Aug. 1943
Naval Air Operational Training Command Carrier Qualification Training Unit U.S. Naval Air Station, Glenview, Ill. (Instrn)	Aug. 1943-Aug. 1943
Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va. (Instrn)	Aug. 1943-Sept. 1943
Carrier Aircraft Service 21 (Instrn)	Sept. 1943-Sept. 1943
Torpedo Squadron 51 (Naval Aviator)	Sept. 1943-Dec. 1943
Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, U.S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va.	Dec. 1944-Feb. 1945
Torpedo Squadron 97	Feb. 1945-March 1945
Torpedo Squadron 153 (Naval Aviator)	March 1945-Sept. 1945

Headquarters, FIFTH Naval District **Sept. 1945-Sept. 1945**

PERSONAL DECORATIONS

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Air Medal with two gold stars in lieu of subsequent awards

Presidential Unit Citation awarded USS *San Jacinto* (CVL-30)

RESERVE AFFILIATION

NONE (Resigned 24 Oct 1955)

Other documents related to LTJG Bush at the Naval Historical Center:

- Torpedo Squadron FIFTY-ONE's Aircraft Action Report of 2 September 1944, World War II Reports, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center
 - Extracts from *USS Finback's* Tenth War Patrol Report on rescue of LTJG Bush, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center
 - Carrier Air Group TWENTY's Aircraft Action Report of 2 September 1944, World War II Reports, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center
-

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